

September 2, 1965

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE APPROPRIATION BILL, 1966

Mr. PASSMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Appropriations have until midnight to file a privileged report on the foreign assistance appropriation bill for the fiscal year 1966, including minority views.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, may I ask the gentleman making the unanimous-consent request if this appropriation bill that we have been waiting for so long, contains any "payola" for the gentleman in southeast Asia—Singapore—who tried to hijack the State Department and caught them and the CIA with their "fingers in the pie?"

Mr. PASSMAN. May I say to the gentleman from Missouri that the foreign aid bill is an illustrative bill. Nothing is appropriated for any nation. We give it to them—the Department of State—as a lump sum, making the appropriation based upon their representation. But it is passed on an illustrative basis.

The Congress does not actually know, legally, what countries or to what projects the money will go. It has been handled in that manner since the inception of the program.

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I would ask the distinguished gentleman from Louisiana if he has heard the news reports of today to the effect that our Secretary of State first denied, and then admitted that they had entertained an attempted hijack for \$33 million and finally agreeing to only \$3 million, after which embarrassing letters were produced and a CIA agent was involved.

I would like to know whether or not it is possible for the Congress to preclude such acts and such international scandals in the future?

Mr. PASSMAN. May I say to the gentleman from Missouri that the Committee on Appropriations handles only money bills. We do not have the right to write legislation. We are only going to bring out a bill recommending funds to carry out the authority previously passed by the Congress and we certainly

hope that when we bring the bill out on next Wednesday we will be in a position to answer a lot of questions that will be asked with respect to what is happening to the money, when, where, and how.

Mr. HALL. I respect the gentleman and I know that he will answer these questions.

Mr. Speaker, I submit that there certainly is hanky-panky going on around the world which certainly should be precluded, if we are going to continue this giveaway program of the Federal taxpayers' money. I for one, understand but am sorely tired of the "old refrain" of legislative authorization versus operative appropriation.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. SHRIVER. Mr. Speaker, I reserve all points of order on the bill.